

# NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Mark Bayer**

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**Michal Freedhoff  
(202) 225-2836**

## **MARKEY STATEMENT ON DC LAW TEMPORARILY BANNING SHIPMENTS OF TOXIC MATERIALS THROUGH CITY**

**Washington, DC** – Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, today released the following statement in response to DC Mayor Anthony Williams' signature of legislation that temporarily bans shipments of extremely hazardous material from being transported through parts of Washington, DC:

"Today, DC Mayor Anthony Williams signed the first local measure aimed at addressing the Bush Administration's failure to secure our cities and towns from terrorist attacks on shipments of extremely hazardous materials. The DC Council bill is the first, but it will not be the last, legislation of its kind. Until the Bush Administration takes the steps needed to improve security surrounding shipments of deadly materials transported through our communities, local jurisdictions will take matters into their own hands to protect their residents from toxic releases that could be caused by accidents or terrorist attacks.

"Last year, I introduced legislation that calls on the Department of Homeland Security to create a national policy for re-routing shipments of the most hazardous materials away from sensitive areas, require the use of technology that would make tanker cars carrying those materials more resistant to puncture, and train and coordinate employees and emergency personnel who would have to respond to such an attack or accident. I will re-introduce my hazardous materials transportation bill shortly.

"Despite recent accidents in California and South Carolina and the ongoing vulnerability of our rail system to terrorist attack, the rail and chemical industries and the Bush Administration have opposed my legislative efforts to re-route shipments to safer routes, beef up security and move to less toxic chemicals whenever possible. The industry, with the support of the Bush Administration, says it can't afford to upgrade security. The reality is that we can't afford not to do so."